

# News from Ed Markey

**United States Congress**

**Massachusetts Seventh District**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **MARKEY WELCOMES ENDORSEMENT OF NATIONAL AMUSEMENT PARK RIDE SAFETY ACT BY THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS**

Washington, DC: Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-MA) today welcomed a letter of endorsement from the American Academy of Pediatrics for H.R. 1488, the National Amusement Park Ride Safety Act. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and its member pediatricians dedicate their efforts and resources to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults. The AAP has approximately 55,000 members in the United States, Canada and Latin America. Members include pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists.

"It is very gratifying to see the nation's most prestigious pediatric medicine association endorse this effort to close the regulatory black hole at our nation's amusement parks," said Rep. Markey. "Children account for a disproportionate share of the injuries on amusement park rides, and it is common sense that we should provide a minimum level of federal oversight to an activity that has become increasingly dangerous as rides have gotten faster and more powerful."

In his letter to Rep. Markey, Dr. Louis Cooper, President of the AAP, wrote "As pediatricians we are particularly concerned about the safety of children and adolescents who enjoy amusement park rides. Injuries, including brain trauma, resulting from defective rides are potentially serious – even life-threatening. A first step to prevention of these injuries is adopting stronger safety regulations that allow for better inspection and oversight of the fixed-rides."

The legislation would close the so-called "Roller Coaster Loophole" by removing a special exemption granted in 1981 that prevents the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) from providing to amusement park rides the standard preventative safety regulation it provides for every other consumer product. This would include the authority to investigate accidents, to develop and enforce action plans to correct defects, to require reports to the CPSC whenever a substantial hazard is identified, and to act as a national clearinghouse for accident and defect data.

A full copy of the AAP endorsement letter can be found at [www.house.gov/markey](http://www.house.gov/markey).

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# American Academy of Pediatrics

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February 11, 2002

The Honorable Edward Markey  
 U.S. House of Representatives  
 2108 Rayburn House Office Building  
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Markey,

On behalf of the 55,000 members of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I am pleased to endorse H.R. 1488, the *National Amusement Park Ride Safety Act of 2001*. This bill is necessary to improve the safety of roller coasters at amusement parks and to help prevent further injury to riders.

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Over the last four years, the increase in injuries from fixed-site rides has increased by 95 percent, according to data collected by the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System. It is unacceptable that the Consumer Product Safety Commission does not currently have the authority to investigate accidents, develop a plan to correct defects or address the safety of a "fixed-ride." In addition, many states do not have an inspection plan in place to address the safety of these types of amusement park rides. Clearly, greater oversight is needed to ensure that all riders are safe on these rides.

As pediatricians we are particularly concerned about the safety of children and adolescents who enjoy amusement park rides. Injuries, including brain trauma, resulting from defective rides are potentially very serious – even life-threatening. A first step to prevention of these injuries is adopting stronger safety regulations that allow for better inspection and oversight of the fixed-rides.

We applaud you for your work on this issue and support you in your efforts.

Sincerely,

Louis Z. Cooper, MD, FAAP  
 President